

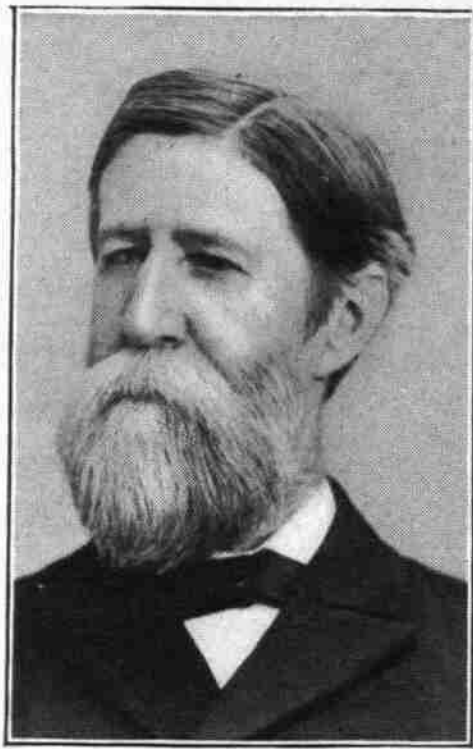
The Christian Education of the Negro

By the Board of Missions for Freedmen of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America

Headquarters: 513 Bessemer Building, Sixth Street, Pittsburg, Penn.

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THE Presbyterian Church, North, began missionary work among the Negroes of the South fully a year before the close of the Civil War. Two committees were at work under the direction of the General Assembly (O. S.) as early as 1864, one with headquarters at Indianapolis and the other



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at Philadelphia. The work of these two committees from necessity was confined by military lines, and was chiefly in connection with military and "contraband" camps and hospitals. In May, 1865, the General Assembly, meeting in Pittsburg, united these committees under one general committee, entitled "The General Assembly's Committee on Freedmen." It met in the lecture room of the First Church, Pittsburg, and was organized June 22, 1865.

Before the reunion there was another work similar in character and purpose with headquarters in New York, carried on as a "Freedmen's Department," in connection with the Presbyterian Committee of Home Missions (N. S.). This "Freedmen's Department" existed only two years, making its second annual report in 1870. When the two assemblies united in 1870, the work among the Freedmen, as carried on from New York and Pittsburg, was consolidated and a new committee appointed. This new committee was organized by direction of the Reunited General Assembly, June 10, 1870, in Pittsburg.

This committee continued to work without change of plan or reorganization for twelve years; but the question of the ownership of property, necessary to the work, and the handling of bequests, made it evident that it would be better to have the committee incorporated. In 1882, the Assembly, at Springfield, Ill., sanctioned the change, and the committee obtained a charter, September 16, 1882, and became a corporate body under

the name of "The Board of Missions for Freedmen of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America."

What the Board Does

The charter of the Freedmen's Board, as granted in 1882, and under which it has operated ever since, is an exceedingly liberal one and empowers it to do anything that any of the boards of the Presbyterian Church can do, with the one limitation that this work must be done among the Freedmen. This Board educates preachers and teachers; maintains ministers in their work and teachers in their schools; builds churches, manses, schoolhouses, seminaries, academies, colleges and dormitories; prescribes courses of study; looks after the condition of buildings and orders all repairs and extensions; elects professors and trustees; provides for boarding department all necessary utensils and furnishings; controls the various institutions of learning; receives monthly financial statements and audits all bills.

What the Board Has Accomplished

Out of confusion, ignorance, and poverty there has arisen a system of educational and evangelistic work that commands the attention and demands the support of the entire church.

Schools, academies, seminaries, and one large university have gathered within their walls young men and young women to the number of more than 14,580, who are under religious influence and are being trained in the ways of the Presbyterian Church.

Congregations have been gathered and churches have been organized until now the Board has under its watch and care 399 churches and missions, containing nearly 25,000 members. Church buildings have been erected and property secured for the use of churches valued at \$393,000. School property owned and used by the Board in its work is estimated to be worth \$684,000. Funds permanently invested for the use of the work amount to \$133,900, making \$1,220,945 invested in property and permanent funds. This property, while absolutely necessary to the work of the Board, entails a heavy annual expense in the way of repairs and insurance.

As the work has been a matter of growth, and its influence operative from the time it began, the power for good must not be measured alone by this year's work, or last year's work, but by all the work that has been done through all these years. Probably 75,000 people have professed their faith in Christ under the preaching of its ministers. The enrollment